

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***The WYSH (Worcester Youth Speak Honestly) Project 2024
runs July 12-13 at the JMAC!***



Photo Credit: Ashleigh Prince

Worcester, Mass. (July 1, 2024) [The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts \(THT\)](#) is pleased to present [The WYSH \(Worcester Youth Speak Honestly\) Project](#). Now in its fourth year, the captivating WYSH Project brings together the powerful voices of Worcester teenagers culminating in three public performances at the BrickBox theatre in the [Jean McDonough Arts Center \(JMAC\)](#) **July 12-13, 2024**.

All performances are free and include a talkback with the cast after the show.

[Reserve your seats today!](#)

According to Meghan Montaner, president of conservatory & education division at The Hanover Theatre, “We know that the youth in Worcester have powerful stories to tell right now, and we are eager to provide them with the space to do so. Theatre creates an incredible opportunity for us to share the diverse stories of our community. The collaborative nature of devised theatre allows each unique voice to be heard in a safe, supportive environment.”

The WYSH Project is a year-long program that includes creating an original piece of theatre, a tour of the show to Worcester Public High Schools, a scholarship to take classes in the conservatory and regular meetups throughout the year to see Broadway and others shows at The Hanover Theatre. This program is designed to give participants a public platform to share their stories and speak their truths. It offers young people a transformative experience that fosters leadership, creative agency, and an experience of community and belonging through the arts. The group meets for over 100 hours, using various arts-based activities to examine their lives as young people growing up in Worcester and to then transmute their experiences into a collaborative, ensemble theater piece. This year the entire process has been captured by Antoine Cadenz of Cadenz Films who is creating a short documentary for The Hanover Theatre in conjunction with the live stage performance.

In sharing their own perspective as an alumnus of the program, brand ambassador [Alyssa Morales](#) reflects on one of their favorite parts of the program, stating “a massive part of what makes WYSH so empowering is the audience. After every performance, during the talkback we would have people our age telling us that they’ve never had the courage to talk about the issues we do. Or we have older generations telling us that our show helped them understand their family members better. This year’s WYSH Project has so much to say, if you’re ready to listen.”

[The WYSH \(Worcester Youth Speak Honestly\) Project](#) will be performed at the BrickBox, part of the Jean McDonough Arts Center (JMAC), located at 20 Franklin Street.

Friday, July 12, 2024, 7 pm

Saturday, July 13, 2024, 2 pm

Saturday, July 13, 2024, 7 pm

Admission is free. Please call The Hanover Theatre’s box office at [877.571.7469](tel:877.571.7469) or visit TheHanoverTheatre.org to reserve your seats today!

This program is supported and funded in part by the [Mass Cultural Council](#), a state agency, the [Greater Worcester Community Foundation](#) and the [Worcester Arts Council](#), a local agency.

About The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts

Since opening in 2008, The Hanover Theatre has entertained more than two million guests with Broadway musicals, comedy headliners, music, dance and more. POLLSTAR consistently ranks The Hanover Theatre as one of the top theatres in the world. The award-winning historic theatre continues to establish its place as a world-class center for the performing arts, a venue for local cultural and civic organizations and a catalyst for the revitalization of downtown Worcester. The Hanover Theatre's facilities at 551 Main Street house function spaces, offices and The Hanover Theatre Conservatory.

The Hanover Theatre Conservatory provides performance opportunities, classes, and individual instruction in theatre, dance and technical theatre and design to more than 500 young people and adults from across central Massachusetts each year. Established in 2016, the conservatory cultivates individual attention, ignites creativity and inspires confidence through arts education led by outstanding teaching artists. The state-of-the-art facility includes classrooms, rehearsal and teaching studios, and tech and costume labs for advanced education in stage craft and design. Students receive access to master classes with national touring artists and gain professional experience from performance opportunities with THT Rep and on The Hanover Theatre's world-class stage. THTC believes in access to arts education for all and provides financial aid for those in need. Many conservatory students have continued their pursuit of the arts at institutions such as Emerson College, Boston University, NYU, Boston Conservatory at Berklee, Berklee College of Music, Hofstra, Hartt School at the University of Hartford, Marymount Manhattan College, Syracuse University and more.

Worcester Center for Performing Arts is a registered not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, which owns and operates The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts (THT) and, on behalf of the Worcester Cultural Coalition (WCC), manages Worcester's BrickBox Theater at the Jean McDonough Arts Center (JMAC). All [donations](#) are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

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